

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 260900Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 89

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E. O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: STUDENTS SEEK MEETING WITH SUHARTO AND CONTINUE PROTESTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 24, LARGE GROUP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISITED PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S OFFICE AND HOME IN JAKARTA IN EFFORT TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON NATIONAL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT. SUHARTO WAS OUT OF TOWN, BUT STUDENTS PROMISED TO RETURN IN GREATER NUMBERS IF THEIR REQUEST FOR "DIALOGUE" WITH PRESIDENT IS NOT GRANTED. ELSEWHERE IN JAKARTA, VARIOUS YOUTH GROUPS CONTINUED TO HOLD SMALL SCALE PROTESTS DURING THE PAST WEEK WITHOUT MAJOR REACTION BY AUTHORITIES. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS REPORTS DECEMBER 26. END SUMMARY.

2. NWHE DELEGATION WHICH SOUGHT MEETING WITH SUHARTO REPRESENTED STUDENT COUNCILS OF THE TWELVE LEADING GOVERNMENT, MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES IN JAKARTA, BANDUNG AND BOGOR. PRESS ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED RANGED FROM 70 TO 200.

3. THE LEADER AND SPOKESMAN OF THE GROUP, HERMAN SIREGAR (WELL KNOWN STUDENT ACTIVIST AND CHAIRMAN
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OF UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENT COUNCIL) TOLD

JOURNALISTS THE STUDENTS WISHED TO DISCUSS CURRENT NATIONAL PROBLEM DIRECTLY WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE SAID MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WAS NECESSARY SINCE OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS WERE NOT RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC CONCERNS.

4. THE DELEGATION FIRST VISITED SUHARTO'S OFFICE AT BINA GRAHA BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN JAKARTA. BUT NEITHER SUHARTO NOR STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO, WHOM THEY ASKED TO SEE IN SUHARTO'S ABSENCE, WERE THERE. STUDENTS THEN PROCEEDED BY BUS AND CAR TO SUHARTO'S RESIDENCE ON JALAN CENDANA, SINGING PATRIOTIC SONGS AS THEY WENT, AND FOLLOWED BY A SQUAD OF RIOT POLICE.

5. AT JALAN CENDANA STUDENTS WERE TOLD SUHARTO'S WERE IN BOGOR. AFTER YELLING AND WISECRACKING AT GUARDS, LEADERS OF THE GROUP MET INSIDE WITH COMMANDER OF HOUSEHOLD GUARD AND LEFT MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE, AND AFTER MEETING STUDENTS DISPERSED PEACEFULLY. ACCORDING MOST PRESS REPORTS, SPOKESMEN SAID STUDENTS WOULD RETURN IN LARGER NUMBERS IF THEIR REQUEST FOR A "DIALOGUE" WITH PRESIDENT WAS NOT GRANTED.

6. ELSEWHERE ON YOUTH FRONT, FIFTEEN YOUTHS CALLING THEMSELVES "GENERATION OF 1966" STAGED PROTEST DECEMBER 21 AT STATE TRADING BANK ON JALIN THAMRIN IN JAKARTA. YOUTHS PLANTED BLACK FLAG ON ENTRY OF BUILDING AND DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS PROTESTING CORRUPTION, ILLEGAL LAND DEALS AND OTHER INJUSTICES AND PREDICTING SOCIAL REVOLUTION AS RESULT OF PUBLIC PESSIMISM OVER GOVERNMENT'S ABUSES IN ECONOMIC AREA. FIVE STUDENTS WERE DETAINED.

7. ON DECEMBER 22, A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS ASSEMBLED PEACEFULLY IN FRONT OF THE RESIDENCE OF PERTAMINA'S PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR IBNU SUTOWO CARRYING POSTERS CRITICIZING PERTAMINA'S POLICIES. THE STUDENTS, WHO CALLED THEMSELVES THE "COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL PRIDE" TOLD JOURNALISTS ON THE SCENE THEY WERE CONCERNED AND OFFENDED BY PERTAMINA'S AND IBNU'S EXTRAVAGANT SPENDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICIES AND URGED TIGHTER CONTROL OVER PERTAMINA'S FINANCES AND MORE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATION'S OIL WEALTH.

8. ALSO, STUDENTS REPRESENTING ISLAMIC ACTION GROUP DEMONSTRATED AT PARLIAMENT BUILDING DECEMBER 22, SHORTLY BEFORE PASSAGE OF MARRIAGE LAW. GROUP WAS PROTESTING REPORTED THREAT(WHICH NEVER MATERIALIZED) BY GOLKAR AND

PARTAI DEMOKRASI INDONESIA ELEMENTS TO OPPOSE ENACTMENT
OF MARRIAGE LAW BY CONSENSUS. THIRTEEN PROTESTORS
WERE REPORTEDLY DETAINED.

9. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: STUDENTS'
DECEMBER 24 EFFORT TO MEET WITH SUHARTO RECALLS SERIES OF
MEETINGS SUHARTO HELD WITH STUDENT CRITICS
IN 1970 AT THEIR REQUEST. THIS EFFORT AND
CONTINUING SMALL-SCALE PROTEST ACTIVITY WITHOUT
MAJOR CRACKDOWN BY GOVERNMENT ARE FURTHER EVIDENCE
OF GROWING BOLDNESS OF STUDENTS AND CONTINUING
OFFICIAL TOLERANCE OF PEACEFUL DISSENT. JAKARTA
(KODAM V) COMMANDER GENERAL MANTIK TOLD PRESS
OVER THE WEEKEND THAT STUDENT DEMONSTRATION WERE
SPONTANEOUS AND THAT THERE WAS "NO NEED YET" FOR
AUTHORITIES TO INTERVENE.
GALBRAITH

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